GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:388
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
JOINT WATER MANAGEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND NEPAL
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Nepal have agreed to set up three tier joint water management mechanism to expedite work on the outstanding water projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in collaboration of the Government of Nepal to get rid of perennial flooding by rivers coming from Nepal?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. During the visit of Hon`ble Prime Minister of Nepal to India from 14-18 September, 2008, India and Nepal have agreed to set up a three-tier mechanism at the level of Minister, Secretary and technical level to rationalize and raise the efficacy of the existing bilateral mechanism in the field of water resources. Subsequently, India-Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) in its 3rd meeting held at Kathmandu (Nepal) from 29 September-1 October, 2008 has recommended that the three-tier bilateral mechanism will comprise of :
(i) Joint Ministerial Level Commission on Water Resources (JMCWR) headed by Ministers of Water Resources of India and Nepal,
(ii) Existing Joint Committee on Water Resources of India and Nepal and
(iii) Joint Standing Technical Committee headed by Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC), Government of India and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of Nepal.

(c) There are several schemes and mechanisms through which the Government of India and Nepal have been cooperating to address the flood problems. The Kosi and Gandak Projects, in addition to other benefits, also provide flood Control through embankments in India and Nepal. The two sides are working together to extend embankments on Lal Bakeya, Bagmati, Kamla and Khando rivers to the high ground in Nepal. The Governments have set up a Joint Project Office (JPO) to investigate and prepare Detailed Project Report on Sapta Kosi High Dam and Sun Kosi Diversion Scheme. The JPO will also carry out the feasibility study of the Kamla and Preliminary study of Bagmati Multipurpose Projects. Flood Control is one of the objectives of these projects.